

NAPS Branch 105 Regular Meeting # 3 Minutes: Wednesday, September 29, 2021

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

Members present: 20 (14 general, 4 associates, and 2 guest)

Our President, Sabir "Jamal" Salih called the meeting to order at 6pm, with the Pledge of Allegence led by Jim Bourque.

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 joining us tonight is our guest speaker, newly elected Area VP, Bill Austin. Cy Dumas, former AVP was also in attendance.

Shaun Branch gave the Vice President's report: He stated that there had been 3 LOWs. All resolved, none pending.

Motion to accept the Vice President's report: made by Donna Machala and seconded by Jim Bourque. All were in favor.

Secretary report: Jamal stated the Barbara Bouchard resigned from the Secretary position July 31, 2021. No report was given. Susan Evans did state that as of the last DCO report we received there were 142 general members and 21 associate members.

Susan Evans gave the Treasurer's Report: Sue indicated that there is a copy of the Treasurer's report on each table. There were no expenses in August. As of August 31, 2021, we are currently in the black by \$10,620.54. The expenses year to date are \$7,124.40. Our total assets are \$69,600.69. Jamal's trip to the National Convention in August/September was not paid until October.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report: made by Tony Alviti and seconded by Dave Costa. All were in favor.

Donna Machala gave the Legislative's report:

Donna said she attended Congressman Jim Langevin's fundraiser on Sat. Sept. 18th from 6-8 p.m. NAPS Headquarters funded our attendance. It was held outside at Capital Grille; gorgeous weather and it was a Waterfire night. Donna said she was able to speak with our congressman and have a photo taken with him. He wants to see Postal Reform passed. It was the first thing he said after I introduced myself.

On naps.org website is the weekly podcast, NAPS CHAT, hosted by Bob Levi, NAPS Director, Legislative and Political Affairs. She encourages everyone to listen.

On the September 17th, NAPS CHAT, Episode 141, Bob Levi, reported that the Postal Service announced it would defer, by six months, its inflation-based postage adjustment of market dominate mail. That adjustment would take place in July instead of January 2022. They also announced beginning 2023, the federal agency would make those periodic adjustments every six months rather than its current annual adjustment in January.

Bob also reported the pending legal action by the losing bidder for Next Generation Delivery Vehicle, Workhorse, dropped its challenge to the Postal Service's award of the contract to Oshkosh Defense. This follows the House of Representatives current inclusion of \$7B in pending budget reconciliation legislation to finance the conversion of the Postal Service's delivery fleet to electric.

On the legislative front, HR 3076, Postal Service Reform Act of 2021, has yet to emerge from the House Ways & Means Committee and the House Energy & Commerce Committee. NAPS has urged the House leadership to instruct those two committees to discharge the bill and for the leadership to promptly schedule a floor vote on it.

Bob's introduced his guest for this episode, Jeffrey Post, Senior Professional Staff Member, Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs. In their conversation, Mr. Post mentions how important it is to hear from the constituents by letter or phone.

NAPS CHAT, Episode 140 on Sept. 10th, Bob's guest was our newly appointed Executive Vice President, Chuck Mulidore. A very interesting conversation covering a lot of information. This was Chuck's his first week on the job. They touched on pay, expanded leave carryover, legislation, and SPAC. One item on pay was the new separate Supervisor Differential Adjustment (SDA) category, for Supervisors, Customer Service, and this new separate category now being 5% above highest paid carrier. This will be a pay raise for about 10,000 members.

On NAPS Headquarters website, naps.org, under legislative center, scroll down to 2021 breaking news and there is a legislative action center to click on for information and to contact your elected representatives. Donna said we must advocate for ourselves. Contact your congressman to co-sponsor Postal Supervisors and Managers Fairness & Equity bills, HR 1623 and HR 1624; our representatives need to hear from each of us.

SPAC enrollment may also be set up on naps.org website. It is also in the Postal Supervisor magazine and I have enrollment forms available.

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.

Motion to accept the Legislative report: made by Chuck Narciso and seconded by Betty DiSalvia. All were in favor.

At 6:45 pm, Jamal said we would break for dinner. The meeting was resumed 7:20 pm.

Jamal introduced Bill Austin, Area Vice President:

He stated in regards to the RIF, the last email from President Ivan Butts stated everyone had a job and the 50's were cut.

At the National Convention, Ivan Butts was elected resident, Chuck Mulidore was elected Vice President, and Jimmy Warden was elected Secretary/Treasurer.

The next day he attended new board and AVP training.

80,000 HMO jobs were pulled down for reposting.

On 10/17/21 he will be attending a board meeting. USPS will also be there.

Bill said there would be 2 training coming up next year. The New England training in April 2022 in San Juan, Puerto Rico and the NEA training in May at the Red Jacket Resort in N. Conway NH.

Bill said he had a crazy 3 days with traveling to 4 NAPS Meetings in 72 hours.

Bill thanked all for his invitation to the Branch 105 meeting.

Jamal opened a Q&A:

Regarding the RIF, he was excited that all got jobs, but the process was run badly. Some got first picks when they only had 3-4 years in. Others who were waiting years for jobs to come up were passed over. Bill said it should have been competitively organized. Bill said it was "who you know". Never a perfect system.

Jamal said there was no list of who was impacted sent by HQ USPS. Very frustrating. This is something that should be corrected in DC.

Bill said he would be forwarding all emails he receives to the Presidents. He also stated that he met Dioen Perez, AVP NY at a meeting and said he was very sharp.

Jim Bourque stated that people are being placed in jobs with no postings. Bill said yes, it is happening. Maine sent him a list of all EAS in acting or OIC positions and it was over 100.

Bill said there are 900 positions to be filled. There will always be 204Bs. They will be needed for vacations and gaps in positions.

Chuck Narciso said they may be looking at bringing the SWIC back. Data is 5 years old.

Jamal said that at the convention there was talk about a 10 year plan with only a PMG and 13 AVPs.

Jamal thanked Bill Austin for attending the meeting and sharing information.

Jamal recognized Liz Perez, Supervisor 02907 as a first timer.

Old Business: Jamal said the scholarship forms need to be in by 11/17/21. Winner will be pulled at the next regular meeting 11/19/21.

Jamal stated he is withdrawing a motion he had made before.

New Business: Jamal asked for volunteers to be on the Election Committee and Scholarship Committee, 3 needed on each.

Election Committee will be chaired by Jim Bourque. With Betty DiSalvia, Donna Machala.

If a member cannot attend the November meeting they must hand the election voting form to a member of the Election Committee, following the By-Laws, Article 3.

Scholarship Committee will be chaired by Kristine Moore. With Victor Giorgio, Donna Machala.

Jamal said that the National Convention in Texas on the whole went well. There was much concern for safety and health. The atmosphere was good. Monday was business as usual. Opening ceremony with band, prayers, and officers spoke. Tuesday the MPG spoke for 1 – 1 ½ hours. Resolutions were reviewed for the rest of the day. Wednesday, we had the day off. Thursday, more Resolutions were reviewed. Election campaigning was good and clean. The location for the National Convention at the Gaylord, in Texas was good, clean and had good food. Friday AM they voted for the National Officers. Ivan Butts ran unopposed for President. Chuck Mulidore ran unopposed for Vice President. James Warden did have challengers and won the Secretary/Treasurer position.

Bill Austin said there were about 1,000 at the convention with about 200 first timers.

Jamal said he received a letter from Bob Conway Sr and read it:

“Good evening, Naps Members. I am sorry I cannot be with you tonight. But I am in Kentucky with my son Bobby visiting my grandson RJ. This is a visit we do yearly. This is an important meeting as there will be nomination for officers at this meeting. It is my understanding that some of our present officers will not be running for reelection again. These officers that we may lose are good people who have served the branch for many years and will be hard to replace. I hope that some of you will consider running for officer as the branch needs you. I know hard it is to raise kids and be involved in other things, I know because I did it. Softball, baseball, basketball, Union officer, naps executive board, boy scout 60 kids in the troop but I will tell you this when you get old and look back you will be glad you did it. I am.

So, I say to you try it you may like it I did. I thank you in advance for your time and consideration in this matter please enjoy the food and friendship at this meeting. Remember it is the people in the Post Office that makes it a great place to work. Enjoy the friendship and company while you can as life goes by too fast. See you at the next meeting.

Sincerely
Robert Conroy Sr”

Jamal stated that membership at meetings was dwindling. There used to be 50 – 70 attendees. Less members are participating and we need to get others more involved to make our branch better. Work together – get involved.

Kristine Moore said we may try a morning meeting. Some one stated, that when you work 6-7 days it is tough to go out after work.

Kristine said people don't read their emails. Jamal said he sent out a text to 21 EAS and didn't get one response. Kim Graziano said she replied by email. Kristine said we should say “Come for the food, stay for the knowledge”.

Chuck Narciso said he had talked to Cy Dumas about combining meetings with other branches. One main meeting then break out for individual branch meetings.

Nominations: Jamal said that a person can be nominated for a position even if they are not in attendance, but must respond in writing in 20 days that they accept the nomination.

President: Chuck Narciso nominated Sabir Salir. Jamal asked 3 times and there were no more nominations.

Vice President: Susan Evans nominated Shaun Branch. Jamal asked 3 times and there were no more nominations.

Secretary: Sabir "Jamal" Salir nominated Jason Caffrey (not in attendance). Jamal asked 3 times and there were no more nominations.

Treasurer: Shaun Branch nominated Anthony Alviti. Jamal asked 3 times and there were no more nominations.

Executive Committee (6 needed):

1. Betty DiSalvia nominated Jim Bourque
2. Kristine Moore nominated Victor Giorgio
3. Victor Giorgio nominated Kristine Moore
4. Shaun Branch nominated Rich Wilson
5. Sabir Salir nominated Mike Imondi (not in attendance)
6. Shaun Branch nominated Bill Downs (not in attendance)
7. Victor Giorgio nominated Bob Conway Jr (not in attendance)
8. Chuck Narciso nominated Jessica Sargo (not in attendance)
9. Donna Machala nominated John Papa (not in attendance)

Cy Dumas asked if he could talk. Cy is the past branch 105 President and a former AVP. He mentioned Jay Killacky, past President of Boston branch, 8 time AVP, and resident officer at NAPS HQ was having health issues. He had been in the hospital for 3 weeks. He had open hear surgery the past Friday, was doing good, and going home soon. If anyone wanted to send a greeting, his address is: 26 Grove Street, Brockton MA 02302

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Betty DiSalvia and seconded by Richard Wilson at 8:45 pm.

Susan Evans

Susan Evans
Treasurer