

Regular Meeting #3 Minutes - 9/21/2016

Lancellotta's Banquet Restaurant, 1113 Charles Street, North Providence RI 02904.

Members Present: 39

The meeting opened at 6:05 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Roger Johnson.

Roll Call of Officers: Brian Holt, Roger Johnson, Barbara Bouchard, Sue Evans, Joanne Keeling, Donna Machala, Colleen Sherratt, Frank Halm, Betty DiSalvia, Victor Giorgio, Al Kesack, Michaela Saccoccio and Cy Dumas - all Present.

Excused: None.

Brian opened the meeting by introducing the guests in attendance tonight. Chris French, is the Manager of Operations Programs Support for the CT Valley District, and he is our guest speaker tonight. We also have with us Ann Mailloux, the NEA HR Manager, who is current on detail to Headquarters. We'd like to recognize Martha St. Germaine who is the Providence Plant Maintenance Manager. With us tonight is Greg Murphy who is replacing Cy Dumas as the Northeast AVP for NAPS. Cy Dumas is with us as well as Michaela Saccoccio. And we'd like to recognize Kathleen McKenna from EAP.

Brian said he attended the national convention this year for the first time, and he was very impressed by how involved it was and how many by-laws and resolutions were addressed. The PMG spoke about building upon the training currently being given to CCAs. He brought his book back and will have notes posted to our website.

Barbara Bouchard gave the Secretary's Report. She said that NAPS 105 currently has 156 Regular Members and 28 Associate Members. Our total non-members are 13. We received a thank you card from Jay Killackey for our donations to his campaign and his gratitude for our support over the years.

Motion to accept the Secretary's report: Made by Roger Johnson, Seconded by Donna Machala

Frank Halm gave the Legislative Report.

Frank said he attended the national convention and was on the ballot counting committee and as a result missed out on some of the proceedings on the floor. There was a lot of work done at this past convention. They attempted to reorganize the NAPS Executive Board by reducing the number of AVPs. People want to downsize the positions, but not when it happens in their backyard. We should have as many people attending the national convention as possible. We need to start planning for that now. In March of this year, he and Donna Machala attended the Legislative Convention. We should have at least three or four people attending this to get the most out of it. This is vital to our existence. We need to be involved at this level. Our retirees need to be actively involved. They want to force everyone onto Medicare. This is your opportunity to be heard by our elected officials.

Donna Machala said we should get in touch with our local candidates. The Providence PCC and the Post Office is holding a political mailing seminar on September 28th from 5 to 6 P.M. at 24 Corliss Street. The mailing list for that event has 899 names before the primaries. A speaker from Headquarters will be here, and you are welcome to attend. She attended the Legislative Convention for the first time this year, and met so many people. It was impressive to meet with the congressmen and senators. You can find out what the other branches around the country are doing. Michaela asked Donna if the National PCC Day is coming up soon, and Donna said yes that's on September 23rd at Gillette Stadium again this year. Our guest speaker for that is Ron Strohman, Deputy PMG. We have close to 300 attendees and break-out sessions such as the Neuroscience of Touch by Dan Dejean.

Bob Conroy, Sr., asked if there was a motion made on how to vote on the national ballot. Vic said it was not brought up. Michaela said it was brought up, it did not pass. Brian said pay talks were the main resolutions.

Treasurer Sue Evans provided the Financial Report. We have \$7,188.25 in the checking account, \$828.12 in the savings account, and \$29,752.45 in the money market, for a total of \$37,768.82. There were no checks written in the month of August. Total DCOs for August were \$20,071.41. Our total year-to-date expenses are \$21,079.03.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report: Made by Bob Conroy, Sr., Seconded by Victor Giorgio.

Brian asked Roger Johnson if he had any discipline issues to report. Roger said there are two letters of warning being issued. One level 20 was recently reduced to a level 17. Brian said to call us if you think there's a problem so we can intervene before it gets to discipline. I can't stress that enough. A hot topic right now is OT admin. EAS are being disciplined. Do your job and do it right, and you will stay out of trouble. Michaela said there was a recent case where someone got a letter of warning, and missed the deadline for a 650 mediation.

There was a break for dinner at 6:25 P.M.
The meeting resumed at 7 P.M.

Brian introduced Chris French, CT Valley Manager of Operations Programs Support. He began his career as a casual clerk in 1993 at the Springfield BMC. While there, he was a 204B from 1995 to 1998. He attended the ASP in 1998 and went on to serve on several inspections and Function 4 teams between 1999 and 2001. He was the DOIS coordinator for the Springfield District from 2001 to 2007, and was an Operations Programs Analyst for the Massachusetts District until 2007. He was the Logistics and Distribution Specialist in Springfield from 2007-2010. He became the FSS program coordinator for CT Valley from 2010-2012. He was the Delivery Programs Manager in CT Valley from 2012-2014, and became the MOP in 2014.

Chris said he'll talk about what's new in fiscal year 2017. He said it has been lean for a few years in NAP. One indicator may change and that's first class SPRs and first class mail. The SPRs may be taken out and that could be a benefit to NPA. He has been speaking to NSP graduates on all the performance-based reports. Technology has reshaped our industry. Turn-by-turn directions are coming to the scanners soon. The newer vehicles will have a charger for the scanner built-in. They are working to make the data more user-friendly. Carrier scanners will pick up first and last mile. This will save the Postal Service money as we currently pay IBM for the same service. We have to scan correctly so that our customers get the information.

Amazon Fresh is coming to some areas in the District next week in over 300 zips. The roll-out date for central areas of CT was pushed to next year. We have rolled out the Promasters where were specifically designed for the Postal Service. They are good for what our business is now with the growth of package delivery. They are the new generation of delivery vehicles.

Chris took questions from the floor:

- Vic Giorgio said at one time, supervisors were supposed to get tablets, is that still the plan? Chris said they were beta tested, and it didn't work out as planned. There are upgraded ACE computers coming out.
- Gary Neirinckx asked if the new models will sync with NSTAR so carriers are not looking at their phones for directions. Since Michaela works for the VMF, she asked if she could address this. We are looking at many different options. The vehicles may "speak" to the VMF. There are 50 vehicles coming out that we will look at and test at various locations. Another option on the table will be automatic reporting of mileage.
- Joanne Keeling said the Promasters are not conducive to door-to-door delivery. Michaela said we had to replace the old vans. But send her any suggestions you have.
- Cy Dumas asked if there were areas in RI and Bristol County Mass where Amazon is delivering? Westerly RI, Stoughton MA, Cumberland RI, Attleboro and North Attleboro as well as Wallingford CT. The Amazon drivers are hitting everything. Amazon has a fulfillment center in Windsor CT.
- Vic Giorgio asked how it's given to the carriers? Chris said between 7-11 A.M. for the regular carrier or CCA to deliver.
- Eric Thompson asked if the newer scanners will be more accurate than they are now? Chris said to let him know about any anomalies that come up so he can address it. Cy Dumas said if you do that be sure to keep your POOM and Postmaster in the information loop.
- Rich Wilson said all these new programs keep coming out, RIMS, Geo, DOIS, OTAdmin, when will it stop? Chris said the technology is moving at a very fast pace. The DMS is changing every two week, that's why I need your feedback about any problems you encounter.

Brian recognized some later comers to the meeting: Carrier Damon, Finance Manager from Greater Boston, and Donna Pratt, the HR Manager from Greater Boston.

Brian introduced Greg Murphy who is the new Northeast AVP replacing Cy Dumas. Greg said he's been told he has big shoes to fill. This branch is a star in the northeast area. You always get good turn outs for your meetings.

There is a resolutions report in the new NAPS magazine, and they will be brought into consultations with HQ. We will keep track of them and provide to the branch presidents which ones are passed. We will be going to Washington for training and consultative meetings. Cy said that's a very important part of the job of the NE VP. LTS is very important; get involved at the grass-roots level. You can speak one-on-one with your representatives, and they want to hear from you. I am now part of the NEA Safety and Health Team. One concern expressed was the number of motor vehicle accidents last fiscal year. Also the use of seatbelts by fork lift operators at the plants. The Promasters are wider than the vans so there are difficulties on the narrow streets. In Boston, Amazon is delivering small packages with their own drivers, and the Postal Service is getting the larger packages. One Amazon driver hit two vehicles in one day. Greg expressed his sincere thank you to both Cy Dumas and Michaela Saccoccio for everything they have done for him.

Old Business: There was no old business to conduct.

New Business: Bob Conroy, Sr., made a motion to make Cy Dumas an honorary member. Roger Johnson seconded the motion. It received a unanimous approval by the members. Bob said Cy has been a dedicated representative of this branch. We have been lucky in this branch having Earl Tasca, Jay Killackey, Ted Keating, and Cy Dumas to give us the guidance and information that we would not have received otherwise. No one deserves this designation more than Cy. Cy asked for a point of personal privilege. He said is very humbled by that. This is the best branch in the US and recognized the depth of the eboard. You can help your board by coming to the meetings. You should also get involved in the political process; it's very important. Also this branch has the best food!

Joanne Keeling reminded everyone about the Dean Ambrosino scholarship. Your nominations must be in by November 1st.

Andy has a presentation for Michaela, and gave her a print for her new office. Ann Mailloux said that Michaela has been a real role model for her. She is so dedicated, and has the most common sense of anyone she knows. I am happy for you Michaela, but sad for us that you are leaving for another job in a different district. Being a female manager in the Postal Service years ago was a big deal, especially in a male domain such as vehicle maintenance. I am so proud of you.

Cy said she worked for him in the late 1980s when she was a 204B at Christmas time around 1987. He promoted her to EAS-15 to manage mail processing. She is going to a new district where she will have 33 VMFs under her purview and four or five area managers for delivery in Maryland, Washington DC, Virginia, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, and the Carolinas.

Michaela said she remembers when she first started at the VMF. But she was lucky to have good mentors over the course of her career.

On a different note, Cy suggested we send as many delegates to the convention at Mohegan as possible. It's the first national convention to be held in New England since 1966.

Kathy McKenna said there are website videos that can help people who are experiencing personal issues. Right now they have a suicide prevention campaign. But there are videos on depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. She said she will be away from work for about six weeks, but Rob Butler will be covering for her.

Michaela said that Bob Brooks asked to be invited to these NAPS meetings.

The 50/50 raffle was pulled, and Michaela won!

Brian reminded everyone that our next meeting will be held on November 16th at Kelley Gazzero VFW. Our guest speaker will be Lisa King, Acting CT Valley Human Resources Manager.

Motion to adjourn: by Pat Bennett, seconded by Roger Johnston.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Bouchard