

Regular Meeting #2 Minutes – 5/6/2017

Meeting place: The East Greenwich Veteran Firemens Hall, 80 Queen Street, East Greenwich RI 02818.

Members Present: 30

Roger Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:75 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Greg Murphy.

Roll Call of Officers: Roger Johnson, Barbara Bouchard, Sue Evans, and Donna Machala - all Present.
Executive Board members present: Betty DiSalvia, Victor Giorgio, and Colleen Sheratt.

Excused: Brian Holt, Cy Dumas, Joanne Keeling, and Don Taylor.

Roger recognized our key note speaker, Brian Wagner, the National President of NAPS. Also joining us tonight is Greg Murphy, the North East AVP for NAPS.

Roger said we have several first-timers to recognize tonight: Bob Edwards, Maureen Nunes, and Marion Starosciak. Each person introduced themselves and talked about their positions.

We observed a moment of silence due to the passing of Ivan Butts' mother yesterday.

Barbara Bouchard gave the Secretary's Report. According to the latest DCOs, this branch has 151 general members and 27 associate members for a total of 178. We did not receive any correspondence since the last meeting.

Motion to accept the Secretary's report: Made by Vic Giorgio; Seconded by Donna Machala.

Donna Machala gave the Legislative Report.

The NAPS Legislative Conference was held in March in Washington, DC. Cy had to cancel and Rose Russo was able to join me at the last minute. On Sunday and Monday, we attended the conference meetings which were filled with good information in preparation for our visit to Capitol Hill. Tuesday, we visited with the legislative reps of our two Senators and Congressman. Congressman Cicilline happened to arrive at our appointment time and met with us. He was very supportive of the H.R. 756 Bill and stated he signed on as a cosponsor. It is an honor to visit with our Representatives and their staff. Their staffs are very interested and aware of our Postal Service issues.

Everyone can be an effective advocate on all Postal issues. You can take action on legislation by accessing the NAPS legislative website. Your SPAC contributions are important and can be payroll deducted. There is also the NAPS library available on the website. I encourage everyone to log on to the NAPS website for up-to-date information.

Motion to accept the report: Made by Colleen Sheratt; Seconded by Roger Johnson.

Treasurer Sue Evans provided the Financial Report

Sue had provided a copy at each table of the financial report through March 31, 2017. Our total income to date is \$10,310.31 and our total expenses this year are \$6,222.63, so we are in the black with \$4,087.68. We don't have many expenses coming up except the convention in New Hampshire later this month. This is not a national convention year.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report: Made by Skip DelSesto; Seconded by Vic Giorgio.

Roger Johnson gave the Vice President's Report.

Roger said Brian Holt is working on one case right now. Please let us know about any issues which come up.

Motion to accept the Vice President's Report: Made by Rose Russo; Seconded by Roger Johnson.

Roger asked Brian Wagner, our key note speaker, to come up and say a few words.

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Brian said he brings greetings from National Headquarters. Greg picked me up earlier today and took me around town, and I really appreciate that. I've been president for about eight months now. He began in the Postal Service as a letter carrier. From a national stand point, we are very busy. Your Area VP Greg really speaks up at our board meetings. I want to bring up about pay talks. We are waiting for the NALC to settle with the Postal Service. We think our talks will begin sometime in June when the USPS makes their pay proposal to NAPS. How many of you are supervisors in this group? Some craft employees are making more than some of our supervisors. We are trying to fix that supervisor differential. And we want regular pay raises. NPA is probably going to stay. Our goal is to make sure your pay package will be regular in occurrence. The pay package really focuses on legislation. The Postal Service pay is supposed to be comparable to the private sector. And that attracts good people to apply and be retained. There is a work study on the SWCs to get them to reflect what it takes to get the job done. We know you have more than eight hours a day to get the work done. Fix the staffing issues in Customer Service. And how do we appropriately staff the Plants. Those are the key issues right now. HR 1576 Postal Service Reform (Medicare integration), the biggest thing is that all Postal retirees after 65 be on Medicare as the primary. We support this to help the stability of the Postal Service.

Brian opened the floor to questions from the floor:

Genie DelSesto asked about the requirement to sign off on the disparity on federal retirees (CSRS vs FERS). Those getting social security, their Medicare rates don't go up. Brian said that is a good question. He gave her his card and she'll text him her question, and he will talk about this with FEHB. Doug Tulino is very knowledgeable in this area. Right now the premium is \$134. It will be a graduated percentage paid; it won't be a big hit right away.

Mr. Barker asked about contacting OPM; he sent them a certified letter in February and has not yet received a response. It's regarding his spousal annuity. Forget about calling them, you can't get through. Brian also gave him his card and will assist him with the liaison from OPM.

Michaela Saccoccio asked if there was a charity listed for Ivan's mother, and Brian said the family is just making the arrangements right now.

Michaela asked when the SWCS study will be done? Brian said in September; it's supposed to be a six-month study. The SWCS is an outdated model. RCAs are not counted in but you are required to give them training; window counts are not included even though this is work to be done. We want to fix it for the long-term. We want a true reflection of the work you actually do.

Jamal asked about Title 39 and the pay differential between EAS and craft. Brian said there is a lot that goes into this and it's all being looked at.

Roger presented Brian with a print of Rhode Island lighthouses.

Old Business:

The motion made in February by Mr. Conroy, Sr. With regard to membership, we need 15% in attendance to make by-law changes in a meeting. We do not always have a quorum. We need a quorum in order to conduct business. Touch base with those people retiring to retain them as members also. Cy said you are right, we should drop that to 10%. Does it need specific language in the motion? Mr. Conroy said, I move the quorum in Article 4 be reduced from 15% to 10%. This is tabled until the next meeting.

New Business: Nothing new at this time.

Reminder to everyone to please sign up to attend the meetings by using EventBrite so that we can get accurate head counts for each meeting.

Reminders: Tomorrow is the annual brunch hosted by Senator Reed. The New England Convention will be May 18-21 in North Conway NH.

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The 50/50 raffle was pulled, and Greg Murphy won! The pot was \$190 with half going to SPAC. The remaining donated raffle items were pulled.

Our next meeting will be held on September 26th at Lancelottas, and nominations will be taken for officers and eboard members; and elections will be held at our November meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Steve Rodowicz; Seconded by Colleen Sheratt.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Bouchard