**BRANCH 1477 N.A.L.C.**

 **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP & ZOOM MEETING**

 **December 12, 2024**

**Meeting called to order** at 7:00 p.m. by President Joe Henschen.

**Invocation**: Greg Welsh.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** led by President Joe Henschen.

**Minutes of previous meeting:** Motion to accept previous minutes by Terry Johnson, seconded by Pat Kelly. Motion passes.

**Application of New Members:** by Ken Grasso –

* Cameron Pressy – Largo/Seminole
* Joseph Micelli - Largo/Seminole
* Pamerese Rogers - Largo/Seminole
* Wilmar Acevedo Lopez - Largo
* Shawn Garner - Palmetto
* Patricia Fuentes-Ortiz - Palmetto
* Leonardo Rodriguez - Pinellas Park
* Van Chlapowski - St. Pete
* Rachael Junker - St. Pete
* Kelsey Enright - St. Pete
* Nicholas Kiley – St. Pete
* Bradley Anderson - St. Pete
* Jamie Mai - St. Pete
* John Welden - St. Pete
* Isaiah Chapman - St. Pete
* Kierra Gray - St. Pete

**Branch by the Numbers:** As of the latest dues roster, 785 Active Per Capita, 767 Members paying dues. Retirees 564 (125 Gold Cards) – 1349 Total Members.

Recognize from Absolute Quality Interpreting Services Kelly Benz.

T**reasurer:** Chuck Cavicchio - Read ending balances for November. Mentioned that our Investment CDs come due at the end of month and recommend we renew it for another 11 months at 4% or 17 months at 3.9%. Propose to add some money from other accounts: $10,000 from convention fund, $10,000 from building fund, $20,000 from leave fund, $10,000 from auto fund. Motion to accept Treasurer’s Report by Scott Archbold, seconded by Tom Phillips. Motion passes.

**Director of Retiree** **Affairs:** O.D. Elliott - On January 1, 2025, there will be some changes to the Health Benefit Plan. Those eligible to retire and under the age of 64 on January 1, 2025, when you do retire, you are going to have to enroll in Medicare Part B and your spouse as well. There are a couple of exceptions: You live out of the country; you have benefits from the VA or have benefits from the Indian Services.

**Director of Insurance:** Tom Phillips - Open Enrollment starts November 11 through December 9. If you need any help, I will be in the office tomorrow to assist you. Eye Glass Plan, 11 members for $590 and 4 dependents for $199 for a total of $789.

**Political District 13 Liaison:** TomPhillips- Yesterday some rallies were held to help promote the Social Security Fairness Act for the Senate to vote for it.

**Trustee Report:** Brian Andrews: Trustees met, and books are in order through October.

**Vice President Report:** Greg Welsh – Briefly talked about CCA retention and how it’s important that we step up and help them.

**Executive Vice President:** Chris Hubble - Briefly talked about an email he received from the National Business Agents Office. It was about a new program that management has implemented that has assigned management officials go out and spy on you to see if any minor safety infractions are seen and if so, it is reported, and you are placed on emergency placement. The acronym for these managers is POD but should be POS. Examples of what they are looking for: Unattended running vehicle, not wearing a seat belt, distracted driving, talking on the phone.

Grievance Workload since last meeting:

We processed 30 cases at Informal A. last month, 32 cases appealed to Formal A, 8 cases were defense to discipline cases, 62 were contract cases and 9 cases appealed to Step B. We processed 7 removal notices in the past month with 3 being resolved, 2 pending a meeting schedule at Formal A. We have 1 removal and an Article 16.7 emergency placement being appealed to step B.

Executive Vice President Chris Hubble then gave a brief summary on his career with the Postal Service and how he got started which was in Tampa Branch 599. He transferred to St. Pete got interested in being a steward and then a trustee and moved up into Executive Vice President position and has had a successful and rewarding career working with and for us in the many capacities as a Union Officer. He thanked the many people who have supported him along the way and with that he announced that this will be his last report as Executive Vice President for he is retiring on December 27.

 **Welfare Reports:**

**Sad:**

* Robert Gibson, Retiree Dunedin - Passed away.
* Jerry Vann, Retiree Petersburg - Wife passed away.
* Tammy Weber, Retiree St. Petersburg - Underwent surgery.
* Chadwick Williams, Carrier Midtown - Wife passed away.
* Heather Vincent Gates, Steward Crossroads - Hospitalized.
* Russell LaChapelle, Retiree St. Petersburg - Passed away.
* Paul Abdalian, Retiree Dunedin - Passed away.
* Stan Scurek, Retiree St. Petersburg - Passed away.
* Holmes Manning, Retiree St. Petersburg - Passed away.
* Tim Baker, Carrier Largo - Brother passed away.

**Glad:**

**Retirees**

* Pat Kelly, St. Pete Beach (in 2 weeks).
* Cheryl Anderson, St. Pete Beach.

**Presidents Report:**

On November 12, the House of Representatives passed the Social Security Fairness Act in a 327-75 vote. H.R. 82 that would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset. The identical Senate companion bill (S.597) has 62 bipartisan cosponsors which is enough to pass. Eighty thousand members of our union are retired and are impacted by the Windfall Elimination provisions and Government Pension Offset. Time to reach out to your senators and encourage them to pass this bill. NALC encourages every letter carrier to contact their senators and urges them to pass the Social Security Fairness Act so that this bill can finally be signed into law.

The Executive Board has recommended we send a combination of 15 delegates and members for training to the FSALC State Convention August 14-16, 2025, in Orlando Florida. The votes counted today are as follows, from highest to lowest:

Joe Henschen, O.D. Elliott, (FSALC Delegate), Greg Welsh, Ken Grasso, Chuck Cavicchio, Tiffany Naughton, Eric Short, Suzette Brown, Jim Bumbul, Sandra Pagan, Patrick Jacques, Donny DeMilta, Laurann Rose, Scott Archbold, Brian Andrews, Erica Baker, Shiela Bradley, Jody Dodd, AJ Pollard, Scott Held, Javier Urrutia, Chris Kotonski, Kalani Mosman, Ken Domingos, Patrice Cannonier, Anthony Roger, Wyatt Stribling, Sheldon Jones, David Mills, Daevid Brown, Kyle Garlow, Nadir Alwani.

The Sargeant at Arms will need to report on the attendance of the delegates meeting attendance requirements. If you do not qualify to be a paid delegate, you can still attend as an unpaid delegate as this will be in Orlando.

Chris’s retirement will require us to make some changes next year to our Executive Board for the remainder of the term. In January Chris will step down from working full-time. This will allow him to draw on his Social Security Supplement without penalty. The Branch Bylaws state that when recommended by the President and acted upon by the members present at a General Membership or Special meeting, The Executive vice President may be detailed to work Full time for the Branch. This has served us well since 2012 when the Executive Vice President full time status was eliminated from the bylaws due to declining membership numbers. Next month we will need to prepare to elevate another officer to fill the void if not the position of Executive Vice President and work to help cover the representational workload in this office for our members. At the same time as this President Henschen will have to miss 1-3 weeks due to a medical procedure in early January. Chris will remain on the job until President Henschen returns.

At that time normally the Vice President would move up, but Greg is retired so we are planning to bring Treasurer Chuck Cavicchio up to full time in that representable capacity with the membership’s approval next month.

At the end of your career any earned Annual Leave you have in the books is yours to be paid out in a terminal payment. The Executive Board has discussed this and recommends we make that payment to Chris Hubble in 2024 instead of 2025, so it does not impact on his 2025 earnings. The amount is about $3700. Eric Short made a motion to accept the recommendation, seconded by Scott Archbold. Motion passed.

**Door Prize Drawing:**

**Lotto – Scratch Off Ticket**

Glen Fagan Tom Phillips